

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 OMB-01

SAM-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSC-01 /064 W

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O R 061059Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 548

INFO DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 2168

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TH

SUBJ: SENI PRAMOT'S REACTION TO HOUSE SPEAKER VOTE

REF: BANGKOK 2166

1. AT A NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING PRASIT KANCHANAWAT'S ELECTION AS SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE (SEE REFTEL), SENI PRAMOT EXPRESSED GRACIOUS RESIGNATION TO HAVING BEEN POLITICALLY OUT-MANEUVERED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE DEMOCRATS WOULD HAVE LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO FORM A GOVERNMENT, AND DENIED BELIEF THAT THE CONSERVATIVES HAD MANIPULATED THE VOTE AGAINST HIM. SENI ALSO SAID HE WOULD NOT DEVIATE FROM HIS EXPRESSED INTENTION TO LIMIT HIS EFFORTS AT A COALITION TO THE SOCIAL AGRARIAN PARTY.

2. SENI DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT TO A LIMITED EXTENT HE WOULD CONTINUE THE NECESSARY PLANNING TO FORM A GOVERNMENT SHOULD THAT HONOR SUDDENLY

BEFALL HIM. WHEN PRESSED FURTHER ABOUT SEEKING OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COALITION, HE BACKTRACKED SLIGHTLY ON HIS EARLIER ASSERTION THAT HE WOULD COOPERATE ONLY WITH THE SOCIAL AGRARIANS. HE SAID THAT ANY PARTIES WHOSE VOTES HE MIGHT TRY TO RELY ON WOULD HAVE TO BE PARTIES WITH WHOM THE DEMOCRATS COULD COOPERATE IN RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT. HE DENIED SPECIFICALLY THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION WITH THE THAI NATION PARTY AND THE SOCIAL ACTION PARTY, AND MENTIONED THAT SAP HAD

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VOTED FOR PRASIT. SENI LEFT MATTERS MORE OPEN REGARDING THE NEW FORCE

PARTY. HE WAS EVEN VAGUER WHEN QUERIED ABOUT THE SOCIALIST UNITED FRONT.

3. COMMENT: SENI-S GOOD BREEDING AND POLITICAL COMMON SENSE SHOWS VISIBLY IN THIS INTERVIEW. HE TOOK HIS DEFEAT WITH A MAXIMUM OF GRACE AND SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED SAYING ANYTHING THAT MIGHT ENFLAME PUBLIC OPINION IN HIS BEHALF. END COMMENT.

KINTNER

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